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SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. This is an amendment which you've heard about. And the amendment is to allow the Liquor Control Commission to temporarily suspend a seller of alcohol in the event they have violated a second time, under a similar charge, in a four-year period, what their obligations are under the liquor laws of the state. I did a check to see how often this could be applied, because I know there will probably be a lot of fear stories here. In the last year this could have been applied 34 times, and understand that this is a tool that is permissive for the commission to use. I sat in the Judiciary Committee one day, on Senator Suttle's bill, and the testimony over and over again was that young people's first drug of choice is alcohol, that if there is any epidemic among young people with respect to drug use, it is alcohol. We need every tool that we can. And what we now give the Liquor Control Commission is the power to fine, and this sudden death provision which they can lift their licenses. Up until 1971, we let the Liquor Control Commission suspend the power to sell alcohol. Since then, given the fact that the retailers have organized, become a considerable and powerful lobbying force, we have changed that, we've moved to the fining mechanism, and that's what we have today. The Liquor Control Commission asks us, as our regulator of our liquor control laws, to give them an intermediate tool for people who have broken the rules once and have been given notice and then repeat the same offense. It seems to me that that is a legitimate tool to use. The regulators asked us for it. You know that there's a lot of concern by parents about the use of alcohol, about kids; they endorse this amendment as well. I urge you to pass this amendment to LB 249. I'm sure we'll have some discussion, so I'll let that begin now. I know the day is winding down.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schellpeper, on the Landis amendment.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I rise to oppose the Landis amendment. This amendment is the same as LB 17 we had in the committee. The committee thought that, rather than to go the route of suspending a license, that we should increase the fines once, try that. I won't argue that